



MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN  
SATURDAY MORNING, SEPT. 6, 1845.  
William Buckminster, Editor.

OGDENSBURG RAILWAY.

Our readers may recollect that we have spoken favorably of the plan of opening a way from the Fitchburg Railway to Lake Ontario through Burlington, in Vermont, to Ogdensburg, a town at the head of the rapids of the St. Lawrence, and at the Northeast corner of Ontario Lake. The distance from Ogdensburg to Lake Champlain, on the shore of which Burlington stands, being only 120 miles; and for that distance a charter has been granted by the State of New York.

We now learn with pleasure that the Hon. Abbott Lawrence has subscribed twenty thousand dollars to the Ogdensburg and Champlain Railway, and we cannot doubt that this will be the best route from Boston to the western world. The Western Railway Company has been cutting its own fingers by its high rates. It was not calculated at first that the fares on that road would pay the interest on the expenditures for a number of years to come; and raising the rate of fare has not helped the master, though for a few months more toll was received than under the former low rates.

It is probable we shall make more Railways than we can support, though we hope not. Yet the public are interested in having considerable competition among the Companies. Nothing else, compete on it, will bring the fares to a proper grade. Competition is sometimes ruinous to the parties concerned, and legislators should endeavor to make such a code of laws as will be of mutual benefit to all.

Now County Postmasters have no adequate compensation, and they can not be expected to pay much attention to the business. Yet they are required to keep exact accounts and to make quarterly returns—and they are expected to take all care of newspapers without the least compensation. They are even forbidden to do a kind office to a neighbor, such as giving notice of payments for papers and sending money in mail.

Some Postmasters tell us the labor of keeping records of all the newspapers that come is equal to keeping a record of the letters. To save all this trouble, they should be allowed a half cent per paper for their own use, and no record need be kept of newspapers. This would save a deal of trouble to deputies, and much labor for clerks at Washington.

We can see no equality in requiring one man to post pay while another is excused. We petitioned for reduction, not for abolition of postage. Should we ever have a majority of sensible men in Congress, we may expect reasonable Post Office laws.

WORCESTER AND NANSHUA RAILWAY.

A new charter was granted for this at the last session; a former grant not having been acted upon in the Senate. We have evidence enough of this; but liberal minded legislators will prefer to give of the grant.

Another gentleman, of the name of Salmon Cawell, writes on the 21st of August that his six months will expire on the first day of September. Thus if we had bargained with him to stop at the end of six months, and had kept a clerk to stop for him, we should do the same we should better know whom to trust.

A cross way has been taken of Framingham, to Lowell, but we have not the least idea that such crossways will pay, or will be needed for many years to come. All our roads leading to the capital of New England repay more than six per cent. on the outlay. We have evidence enough of this; but we have no evidence favorable to cross roads. Branches from large routes stand on a similar footing. And the Boston and Worcester Company will never realize five per cent. on the track they are now laying from Natick to the village of Saxonville. The Company was aware of this last winter, and so told the Legislative Committee, yet to prevent a direct railway from Framingham center to Boston, joining the Fitchburg at Weston, the Company made a promise "to accommodate Framingham" with a branch or branches. By this promise a few Senators were caught in a trap, but the Company is caught too, and will never set its money back again. It will get a little additional freighting business, but as to passengers—the most profitable part of railway income—the fare will not be worth a snap.

Had that Company laid a way from Framingham, through Saxonville and Weston to West Newton, and extended their Newton trains; they might have had all the patronage that those places can afford, and as good a prospect of an increase of business from an increase of population as is offered in the writer to make such statements as he did. Mr. Clay was sick and did not examine the official statistics. In the opinion of the physician an operation would be useless, and he can live but a short time. The swelling in the hand has now subsided, and it appears as if wintered. [Post.]

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## THE POET'S CORNER.

### THE FREE.

By Miss Eliza Cook.

The wild streams leap with bounding sweep  
In their curious course o'er the mountain steep;  
All fresh and strong they flow along,  
Waking the rocks with their cataract song.  
I bore with glee, for I love to see  
The path of any thing that's free.

The sky-lark sings with dew on his wings,  
And up in the arch of heaven he sings  
Trill-la, trill-la—oh, sweetest far  
Than the notes that come through a golden bar.  
The joyous bay of a bound at play,  
The eas of a rock on its homeward way—  
Oh! these shall be the music for me,  
For I love the voices of the free.

The deer starts by with his antler high,  
Proudly tossing his head to the sky;  
The barks run the plain unbroken by the rein,  
With streaming nostril and flying mane;  
The clouds are stirred by the eagle bird,  
As the flap of its swooping pinion is heard.  
Oh! these shall be the creature for me,  
For my soul was born to love the free.

The mariner leaves, in his bark on the wave,  
May laugh at the walls round a king's slave;  
And the one whose lot is in the desert spot,  
Has no dread of furious fire in his cot.  
The earth and state at the palace gate  
Are what my spirit has learned to hate;  
Oh! the hills shall be a home for me,  
For I'll leave a throne for the hut of the free.

### NEVER LOOK SAD.

By T. H. BATLEY.

Never look sad—nothing's so bad  
As getting family with sorrow;  
Treat him to-day in a cavalier way,  
And he'll seek other quarters to-morrow.

Look not so weak, would you but peep  
At the bright side of every trial;  
Forte you'll find is often most kind,  
When chilling your hopes with despair.

Let the sad day carry away  
Its own little burdens of sorrow,  
Or you may miss half of the bliss  
That comes in the lap of to-morrow.

When hope is wreck'd, pause and reflect,  
Error occasioned your sadness;  
It is no use, hereafter you'll know  
How to steer to the harbor of gladness.

## LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

### Simon Sawley's Shilling.

A steep hill-side, sloping down to one of our lovely English rivers, stands a small village, but so few and so thinly scattered that one would inquire if the greater part of its inhabitants are weavers, employed in a silk mill a little higher up the river. How it has preserved its primitive rural appearance, it is difficult to say; perhaps the owner of the above mentioned mill, struck with the picturesque beauty of the detached cottages, followed the example of the original inhabitants, and built some of them in the same style. The hill-side is dotted over with cottages of every variety, from amongst which rises the taper spire of the village church, surrounded by its quiet burial-ground. There is, however, one exception to the general aspect of the village. At the foot of the hill is one row of cottages facing the river, with gay flower-pots in front, sloping to the water's edge, and larger gardens behind, etc., etc.

In one of the cleanest of these cottages, with the trimmest flower-pots and best stocked garden, there lived at the time I knew Westleigh, a certain Simon Sawley, or rather, to speak more correctly, I should say a certain Mrs. Simon Sawley, for she being the most authoritative person, the residence was always so dignified in the village. Simon was a well-made man—a good hand at his work; but not celebrated for great power of intellect or strength of mind. His wife was a pretty little woman, with soft brown eyes, a fine clear complexion, a neat compact figure, and mild expression of countenance. Her voice was sweet and subdued in its tone, and to judge from appearances, you would have pronounced her the neatest and prettiest woman in the place; also her person was proportionately delicate—treat to which, no doubt, we can all testify; but more reason than poor Simon. Martha Sawley, to use her own phrase, "was not a woman to be put upon by any body;" which meant that she was a woman who would have her own way in spite of every body. In fact like many a mild looking, smooth-spoken woman, Martha was a woman of great strength of mind, and a somewhat enterprising nature; her threats can soften or subdue. She never scolded, she rarely lectured, but quietly and steadily pursued the settled purpose of her soul, regardless alike of the wishes or convenience of others. If ever it happened that she met with more than usual opposition, she would assume the air of a deeply injured person, maintain an obstinate silence, or when provoked, let out a sharp, short, and forcible retort; and, in short, fall into a decided fit, from which nothing short of the most entire submission to her will could avert her. It was rarely indeed, that honest Simon ventured upon anything like opposition; for, though not possessed of extraordinary development of either the arithmetical or reasoning powers, he had learned from experience, to consider well before he entered upon the war, and to avoid a contest which must be sure to defeat. There was, however, one point upon which, though he secretly indulged in feelings of a rebellious and insubordinate nature. Mrs. Sawley insisted that he should every Saturday bring home to her the whole of his week's wages, without any deduction whatever. This, of course, was quite right, and what every man who has a wife would allow him to do; but this was not all; she would not allow him a cent in his pocket, not even on the condition of never spending it; for as she was wont to remark, "men are but men at the best, and frail creatures;" therefore it was better not to put temptation in their way; "besides, for her part, she could not see what a man, who had a wife to support, could want but money." He worked for it, and she spent it to the best advantage of course; and that, in her opinion, was the order of Providence.

One lovely evening towards the latter end of spring Simon was busy in his garden. It happened that he was occupied near the hedge which divided his territories from those of his next neighbor. Like most remarkable individuals, Simon had his eccentricities, one of which was, when and where he had dined, to go off, and, of course, in solitude, to think. And as he walked, he talked to the following effect: "Well it is too bad, that it is; there's a farthing to bless myself with. Tom Jones said he wouldn't stand it if he was me; he'd be master. But it's easy talking, he knows nothing about it; he is not married, and don't know Martha. Well, never mind, I've got money, I have a shilling that nobody knows nothing about." And after gazing fondly at it for some minutes, he put it again into his pocket, which he buttoned carefully up, pulled his waistcoat well down, and putting it several times to make sure there was no outward and visible sign of the hidden treasure, he resumed his work with great self-complacency. It is commonly said that men will have care, and will be anxious to provide for the wants of their family. Added to this misfortune, food was that year remarkably dear, the harvest was bad, and the potato crop indifferent; and though Martha was an excellent nurse and manager, it surpassed even her powers to provide food and medicine, with little

or nothing resulting in. Their neighbors sympathized sincerely in their distress, and gave the best proofs of their sympathy by rendering them all the assistance in their power; but they were poor themselves, and found difficulty enough in making all ends meet.

It was in the midst of these perplexities when rent was due, a doctor's bill in prospect, and turn which way they were nothing but debt and poverty staring him in the face, that Simon, in his garden, had his first thought of the bewilderment sure in his possession. First, he thought of purchasing himself a new fishing-rod, then of buying a trap to catch birds, and then of getting into the temptation of a simoniac nature presented themselves to his imagination; but to all there was one grand object, inquiries were sure to be made as to where the purchase money came from: Martha would get to know all about it, and that would never do; so the idea was dismissed entirely. Then he determined to keep it until a good opportunity occurred of getting it to his fellow-soldier and acquaintance, especially to Tom Jones, that he had money, and could spend it on a glass of ale or mug of porter with the best of them. 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